

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WEST POINT HONORS GENERAL
ROSCOE ROBINSON, JR.

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to advise my colleagues that West Point will dedicate its first permanent memorial in memory of a distinguished African-American graduate, on April 7, 2000. The life of the late General Roscoe Robinson, Jr., a St. Louis native, will be honored as his name is placed on the most prominent lecture facility at the United States Military Academy located in historic Thayer Hall.

A member of the USMA Class of 1951, General Roscoe Robinson, Jr. was the first African-American graduate of West Point to achieve four-star rank in the Army. The Academy presented him the Association of Graduates Distinguished Graduate Award shortly before his death in 1993. He is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

During his distinguished career as an Infantry officer, General Robinson was noted for his outstanding leadership and his love for the American soldier. He served in the 7th Infantry Division in Korea and commanded 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. His major commands include US Army Garrison, Okinawa (The Ryukus), 82nd Airborne Division, and United States Army Japan/IX Corps. After earning his fourth star, General Robinson served as the United States Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee. He retired from the Army in 1983.

This highly visible memorial will commemorate one of America's most respected soldiers. General Robinson's widow, Mrs. Mildred Robinson, and other family members will participate in the ceremony. Other attendees will include political leaders, senior retired and active duty military officers, as well as USMA staff, faculty and cadets.

The Dedication Project Officer, responsible for the organization and successful execution of this momentous occasion is LTC Charles Dunn III. He is the Executive Officer of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. I send my best wishes to all who will participate in this historic ceremony celebrating the memory of General Roscoe Robinson, Jr., a truly outstanding African-American leader.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE
OF SRI LANKA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution congratulating the peo-

ple of Sri Lanka for their commitment to democracy in the face of on-going terrorism. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Congressman PALLONE of New Jersey, who with me co-chairs the Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka.

In December's presidential elections, the incumbent, Chandrika Kumaratunga, was re-elected to a second six-year term with 51 percent of the vote. Her nearest rival got 43 percent. The final days of the campaign were marred by a terrorist attack in which the President was injured. A total of 22 people were killed and more than 100 others injured in that attack and in another terrorist incident. These attacks have been blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an organization that has been waging a violent campaign against the Sri Lanka Government for more than 25 years. The LTTE has been designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department.

Yet, despite this shadow of violence, 8.6 million of the nation's 11.8 million registered voters cast ballots, for an impressive voter turn-out of 73 percent. This demonstrates the strong commitment of the Sri Lankan people to democracy and their refusal to be intimidated by terrorism. International observers, invited by the Sri Lankan government, were on hand to monitor the election. U.S. State Department spokesman James P. Rubin stated on November 30th that the U.S. Government applauded Sri Lanka's decision to invite the international observers.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who was elected as the nation's first woman President in 1994, was sworn in to her second term on the day after the elections. In her address to the nation, the President pledged to combat terrorism and urged her compatriots to join her in establishing peace. She reached out to her main rival in the presidential race to join her in building a consensus to achieve these goals.

I hope that Members will join me in support of this resolution recognizing the commitment of the people of Sri Lanka and their government to democracy and to achieving peace.

SUPPORT THE COMMON SENSE
CENSUS ENFORCEMENT ACT OF
2000

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the many Georgians who have contacted me to complain that this year's census questionnaire is too intrusive. Today, I am introducing legislation that will address these serious concerns—The Common Sense Census Enforcement Act of 2000.

As every Member of the House of Representatives is acutely aware, the census is

constitutionally mandated for the purpose of apportioning federal legislative districts, and the population information gathered is also used in drawing state legislative district lines. The Constitution requires the federal government to conduct the census, and federal law (13 U.S.C. § 221) also requires that residents answer the census completely and truthfully. Failure to answer any questions can result in fines of up to \$100. Furthermore, if one intentionally provides inaccurate information in response to the census, the law provides for fines up to \$500. These penalties are understandable with regard to questions directly related to apportionment, in light of its central importance to our constitutional system. I do, however, question the appropriateness of imposing such penalties for refusal to answer questions unrelated to apportionment, and I am introducing legislation to remedy this situation.

Today, I am introducing The Common Sense Census Enforcement Act of 2000, which would eliminate the fine for failure to answer Census 2000 questions unrelated to apportionment. By taking this action, Congress can limit the intrusive nature of the census while still providing the government with the basic information necessary to administer our republic.

This legislation reflects the concerns many of my constituents have expressed with regard to the length and the content of this year's census. Most of the questions on the long form of the census clearly are not asked for purposes of apportionment, but rather to collect information necessary for the administration of any number of federal programs. Information gathered in the census is currently used for federal and state planning and funding of education and health care programs, transportation projects, etc. While it is true that federal law requires much of this information for program administration, the law does not require that this information be collected via the census or under any penalty at law. A great deal of information that was once collected through the census is already being gathered through surveys that do not bear the census' strict legal requirements.

In closing, I share the belief of many Georgians who find it inappropriate for the federal government to coerce citizens to provide personal information by packaging non-apportionment-related questions with the constitutionally required and legally enforceable apportionment census questions. In the future, either the information should be collected separately, or it should be made clear that no penalty will be applied to those who refuse to answer questions unrelated to apportionment. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of The Common Sense Census Enforcement Act of 2000.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A TRIBUTE TO ENTREPRENEUR OF
THE YEAR YOLANDA COLLAZOS
KIZER

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding fellow Arizonan, Yolanda Collazos Kizer. Yolanda is a well-respected business and community leader in Arizona and Phoenix, and someone I'm proud to call my friend.

Yolanda was recently awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year award by the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the year 2000. This award was established to honor extraordinary individuals that have not only been successful in the business world, but who have contributed to the community on a broader scale. The award recognizes Ms. Kizer for her influence as a role model among small business owners and in the Hispanic community.

Yolanda is the owner and president of three Phoenix-based businesses: CASA Fenix Merchandising owns and operates retail concessions at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport; Builder's Book Depot is a retail, mail order and electronic commerce bookstore that specializes in construction, architecture, interior design and engineering books; and Builders' Book Publishing Company produces specialty business management texts for the construction industry.

Yolanda is an active community leader and has served on a multitude of boards and commissions. Currently she sits on the Executive Committee of the City of Phoenix Sister Cities Commission and on the Governor's Diversity Council. She has professional affiliations that include memberships in the National Association of Women Business Owners, the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Minority Owned Airport Concessions, and the American Booksellers Association. She has previously served on the City of Phoenix Commission on the Economy, First Interstate Bank Community Advisory Board, Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Center Board of Directors, and the Governor's Strategic Plan for Economic Development. She is also the former President and Board member of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Not only is Yolanda a tireless worker in the business community, she also spends many hours giving back and facilitating the success of others. Yolanda has served as a mentor to many young women, and she is a founding member of MUJER, a Hispanic women's organization in Arizona. Yolanda has given freely of her experience and expertise by giving seminars and lectures throughout the Valley of the Sun. As a policy maker, through her various civic roles, she has made important contributions to and helped to shape today's business environment.

Mr. Speaker, as you can surmise, Yolanda Kizer is an exemplary community leader and a true role model for young entrepreneurs across the nation. Therefore, I am pleased to pay tribute to my friend Yolanda, congratulate her on this most recent accomplishment, and wish her continued success.

CONCERNING ORGAN PROCUREMENT
AREA IN KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, April 4, Mr. DINGELL referenced the different waiting times for liver transplants between the two Kentucky transplant centers. As you might know, both centers are in the same organ procurement area (OPA). The different waiting times are the result of the different status levels of the individuals on the waiting list. It is not a reflection of geographic unfairness. Seriousness of condition, not time on the waiting list, is the determining factor for who gets a liver transplant. As the Institute of Medicine report stated, aggregated waiting time is a poor measure of equity in the transplant field.

At the request of both Kentucky organ transplant centers, I was pleased to cosponsor H.R. 2418, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Amendments Act. Let's keep important transplant decisions with the physicians and transplant centers who actually save lives. Let's keep the Washington, bureaucrats out of this issue.

END THE BERMUDA TAX DODGE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Hartford Courant recent ran an editorial endorsing an effort to "end the Bermuda tax dodge." I agree with this editorial, which is why I am joining my colleague Representative NANCY JOHNSON in introducing legislation to put an end to this loophole.

During the past year, several Bermuda-based companies have either acquired a U.S. property-casualty insurer, or U.S. reinsurers have relocated to Bermuda. A major reason for these actions was to allow insurers to avoid U.S. income tax on investment income by reinsuring their U.S. owned subsidiaries' reserves to a parent located in a tax haven such as Bermuda, which has no income tax. It works like this: the company pays a one-time 1 percent federal excise tax to reinsure offshore, and in return, the foreign reinsurer earns tax-free investment income on the transferred reserves for as long as they are held offshore. By escaping all U.S. income tax, these companies can have up to ten percent pricing advantage over U.S. taxpaying companies in the U.S. marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, such an advantage to foreign companies over U.S. owned companies is patently unfair and should be eliminated immediately. Our legislation solves the problem by imputing investment income to the U.S. subsidiary of the foreign reinsurer or business sent offshore to a tax haven. This language is intended to affect only reinsurance transactions with foreign reinsurers domiciled in tax haven countries such as Bermuda, and it only impacts business ceded between related parties.

This is not a trade issue, as some would like to make it. The purpose of insurance is to

enable property-casualty companies to spread risk among several companies. The practice of reinsurance allows greater access to insurance for consumers, promotes solvency in the marketplace, and helps ensure claims are paid to customers. But this is not the true purpose of the transactions affected by this bill. In these cases, reinsurance is written between related parties—a U.S. subsidiary cedes U.S. business to its foreign based parent—simply to obtain a tax benefit. No risk has been spread in this transaction, the company is simply moving money from one pocket to another pocket within the same corporate entity. The primary purpose is to escape U.S. income tax.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome any comments or suggestions on this legislation from the Treasury Department, the Joint Committee on Taxation, any party affected by this bill, or anyone concerned that they might be. This is clearly a very technical issue, but that should not stop Congress from moving quickly to shut down this loophole. If we do not stop this practice, then other U.S. companies will be forced to relocate to Bermuda, or be bought by a Bermuda based parent, in order to stay competitive. This, in turn, will result in a significant reduction in U.S. corporate tax payments, and has implications not only for the property casualty business but also for affiliated corporations, especially life insurance companies, who could in theory benefit from this loophole.

Now is the time to take action, and hopefully Congress will act now.

STATEMENT BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN OPERATIONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I recently testified before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations on FY 2001 Budget Request on March 30, 2000. I submit my statement for the RECORD.

CONGRESSMAN DENNIS J. KUCINICH'S STATEMENT BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS ON FY 2001 BUDGET REQUEST

Thank you Chairman Callahan and Ranking Member Pelosi for offering me an opportunity to relate my thoughts on the President's budget request for foreign operations to you and other Committee members.

I would like to begin by reminding my colleagues that it has been a full year since the start of the NATO air campaign on Yugoslavia. My comments will focus on United States and NATO efforts since this bombing campaign and the costs associated with these efforts, specifically with regard to peacekeeping operations and funding democracy activities in the region.

To start, the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo has only compounded our failures in the Balkans. A year later we are witnessing reversed ethnic cleansing of Serbs and Gypsies by Albanians. Since June of last year, more than 240,000 Serbs, Roma and Muslim Slav Gurani have fled the province of Kosovo. The composition of Kosovo is now almost completely Albanian as Serbs and other non-Albanians continue to flee for fear of their lives. Moreover, an Amnesty International report issued last month concluded that six months of peacekeeping efforts in